

August 26, 2016

Noteworthy progress made along Ellicott City's Main Street this week, Executive Kittleman says

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Nearly a month since a flash flood significantly damaged Ellicott City's Main Street, Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman today applauded another week of "noteworthy" recovery progress.

This week saw the end of a five-day window for residents, merchants and building owners to complete cleanup and move out and the return of commerce along a section of Main Street that reopened Wednesday to pedestrian traffic. Building owners also used this time to bring in contractors to do emergency remediation or develop a recovery plan.

Up and down Main Street all week, county and private crews paved streets and a parking lot, reinforced retaining walls, continued to clean and repair storm drains and installed new traffic signals.

"As I have been saying all along, we will see progress in our recovery efforts every day," said Kittleman. "That said, this week was particularly noteworthy as some businesses were able to reopen. Seeing them open their doors was a morale boost to all of us who have been working long days in the recovery process."

On Wednesday, the county opened access to Main Street at two locations, effectively shrinking the perimeter the "no-access" area. Access was restored at the top of Main Street from Ellicott Mills Drive to Court Avenue and on Old Columbia Pike down to Main Street, allowing businesses at the western end of Main Street and along Tonge Row to reopen.

Also on Wednesday, BGE crews began installing a new, 4-inch natural gas line on Main Street from Court Avenue to Maryland Avenue. During this extensive repair, BGE will be connecting this line to nearly 70 properties along Main Street.

On Saturday, Aug. 27, half of Lot "F" near the top of Main Street is expected to reopen to the public. Limited parking will be available in parking Lot "D" via Old Columbia Pike to Roussey Lane, accommodating employees and customers of those accessible businesses. On-street parking on Main Street continues to be prohibited and parking in general will be limited.

Kittleman expects to further decrease the size of the no-access perimeter over the next few weeks. The county and State Highway Administration officials hope to reopen the bridge spanning the Patapsco River from Baltimore County will reopen by early September as well, Kittleman said. This will enable the county to move the “no access” perimeter, allowing pedestrian and vehicle traffic to the bottom of Main Street and up Maryland Avenue.

Kittleman said more sidewalks must be installed, buildings shored up, significant stabilization and repair work completed along Hamilton Street and major work done in front of Salon Marielle.

“It’s clear many people are resolved to doing the work needed to help Ellicott City recover,” said Kittleman. “It’s going to take time to get the job done. But we are committed to making this happen.”

In other recovery news:

An educational forum on loan programs and business services available to those affected the storm has been scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 31 in the Ellicott Meeting Room of the Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road in Ellicott City.

Sponsored by the Howard County Economic Development Authority, two sessions are scheduled from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Small Business Development Centers and other agencies will be on site to explain the funding programs, application process and timing. The Ellicott City Partnership also be on site to discuss its relief efforts.

Beginning Monday Aug. 29, a Recovery Assistance Office will be open weekdays, Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesdays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center at 9411 Frederick Road until at least Sept. 20. Those in need can also reach office staff at 410-313-0814.

For other questions, residents and businesses of the Main Street area may call 410-313-0863 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. for assistance or visit the county’s online flood recovery resource page at www.ECfloodrecovery.org .

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